

Application No. 10/643,891

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A vehicle safety system comprising:
a safety system controller;
a seat belt frame;
a seat belt spool mounted for rotation on the seat belt frame, containing a quantity of seat belt webbing;
an energy-absorbing mechanism positioned between the seat belt frame and the seat belt spool;
an engagement mechanism which selectively connects the energy-absorbing mechanism between the seat belt frame and the seat belt spool so that withdrawal of the seat belt webbing from the seat belt spool causes deformation of the energy-absorbing mechanism;
a motion sensor mounted to the seat belt frame, the sensor operable to detect rotation of the seat belt spool; and
wherein the safety system controller is in information receiving relation with the motion sensor and in controlling relation with at least one deployable safety system that includes an airbag.
2. (original) The vehicle safety system of claim 1 wherein the safety system controller is in information receiving relation with the engagement mechanism.
3. (original) The vehicle safety system of claim 1 wherein the energy-absorbing mechanism is a torsion bar.
4. (canceled)

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5. (original) The vehicle safety system of claim 1 wherein the vehicle safety system is in information receiving relation with at least one crash sensor.

6. (currently amended) A vehicle safety system comprising:

a safety system controller;

a slider frame;

a slider mounted for motion on the slider frame, and a quantity of seat belt webbing mounted or positioned with respect to the slider so that linear motion of the slider with respect to the slider frame allows extension of the seat belt webbing;

an energy-absorbing mechanism positioned between the slider and the slider frame, and operable to absorb energy when the slider moves with respect to the slider frame;

a motion sensor mounted on the slider frame, the sensor operable to detect linear motion of the slider with respect to the frame;

wherein the safety system controller is in information receiving relation with the motion sensor and in controlling relation with at least one deployable safety system that includes an airbag.

7. (cancelled)

8. (original) The vehicle safety system of claim 6 wherein the vehicle safety system is in information receiving relation with at least one crash sensor.

9 – 13 (canceled)